

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert the following after the title on page 1:

This application is a Division of Application Serial No. 09/931,888 filed on 08/20/01.

PAT 6,777,967

Please insert the following on page 6, line 2 as follows:

According to an aspect of the present invention, an inspection apparatus of a target object to be inspected is provided. The inspection apparatus comprises:

a power source circuit (13A, 12A, 12B, 15) for applying a voltage to a part of the insulating film formed on an inspection electrode of the target object so as to form a predetermined potential gradient in at least a part of the insulating film, a fritting phenomenon being formed in the insulating film by the predetermined potential gradient so as to break a part of the insulating film;

an inspecting probe (12A) that is brought into electrical contact with the surface of a part of the inspection electrode, the insulating film of the part of the inspection electrode having been broken by the fritting phenomenon; and

a tester (13) connected to the inspecting probe so as to inspect the electrical characteristics of the target object to be inspected.

It is preferable that the inspection apparatus further comprises a current limiter (14D) for limiting the current flowing between the probe and the inspection electrode.

It is preferable that the power source circuit for forming a predetermined potential gradient in at least a part of the insulating film comprises: